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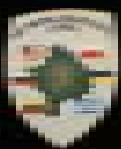
Guardian East

Volume 9, Issue 3

July 9, 2003



The
Protectors
of Peace,
2-2 Keeps
Watch - 6



Introducing Public Affairs

By Maj. Hillary Anne "Gus" Luton
Task Force PAO; 203rd MPAD Cmdr.

This is a time of transition for all of us. Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division are returning to Germany, and many are moving on to new assignments. Soldiers from the 28th Infantry Division are coming in for a long awaited deployment. And then there are those of us who arrived in the past few months who will remain at Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith to continue our time here. The Public Affairs Officer and 203rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment are some of the soldiers who will remain through this transition.

We have met many soldiers from the Big Red One and enjoyed the working relationships we have established over the past two months. We have made new friends and we will soon be saying "see you later." This is never an easy task.

We have also had the opportunity to work with the 28th ID, while briefly at Ft. Stewart, Ga. We look forward to the arrival of the 28th and to continue the work we started.

Now that I have the sentimental side of this message out of the way, let's get down to business. As a public affairs officer, my soldiers and I often run into people who are confused and

even frightened when it comes to media relations. This is not something to be confused or frightened of. But to alleviate some of those problems, I offer the following words of advice:

1) Never confuse the public affairs personnel who wear the Army uniform with the media. They are NOT one and the same.

2) If confronted by the media, it is always wise to have a public affairs representative with you. That PA person can help you through the interview, give you advice and ensure you don't say anything you shouldn't. Always, make sure PA knows about any interview that happens without a PA representative present.

3) Most importantly, STAY IN YOUR LANE. If the policy is decided at a level above you, then it is not your place to talk about it. Talk about what you know, (i.e. your job, home, what unit you belong to, etc.)

4) Operational Security is always important to keep in mind. Do not discuss exact numbers, equipment, travel plans, missions, etc.

5) Be yourself. Don't try to put on an act. Just relax, talk to the reporter and be yourself. Your PA representative will be there to help you



Maj. Hillary A. Luton

if you get into trouble.

6) If you do not feel comfortable talking to the media, there is no requirement stating you must do so. Be polite when refusing to give an interview.

7) NEVER lie to the media. If you don't know the answer, do not make one up. Simply say you do not know. If you can get the information later, let them know that. If your answer will violate OPSEC, tell the media you cannot answer for that reason.

8) When in doubt, ask a PA representative or ask the PAO. We are here to help.

Good luck and farewell to the 1st ID and welcome to the 28th ID. The 203rd MPAD and the PAO are here to serve and support the soldiers at Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith.

Guardian East

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Army Reserve Capt. Michael Deboisblanc is assisted in a June 18 surgery by Dr. Sejdulla S. Mahmuh of the Gjilan hospital. The surgical assistance program is an on going program of Task Force Med Falcon. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

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Pvt. Luis Grau, a rifleman with A Company 2-2 Infantry's "ICE" platoon, observes from the window of an abandoned house. The platoon used the structure for the excellent cover and concealment provided by the walls and shadows.

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Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY
www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

The ABCs of NBC



NBC Defense Course student, Sgt. Omeakinrefon Oyeyemi, decontaminates his face while in a simulated chemical environment as part of the NBC Defense Course June 12. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

“It’s a lot to learn. Hopefully, I can push further and go further with this and spread the knowledge, because everybody needs to know.”

Pfc. John M. Gonzales

By. Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo - A June Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical defense class at Camp Monteith culminated with an exercise on defense against NBC attacks using mission oriented protective posture gear.

The NBC defense course was a 10-day, 80-hour class offered to qualify personnel of various Military Occupational Specialties and ranks to serve as unit NBC specialists.

“They all learn about the different chemical and biological agents out there,” said Staff Sgt. Michelle Fairley, class instructor. “The highlight of the course is the technical portion where they learn how to plot the ‘NBC Four’ and ‘NBC Five’ reports.”

“They do a hands on evaluation with all NBC (defense) equipment. The last portion is where they learn about NBC room operations,” she added.

Every unit is required to have an NBC qualified officer and enlisted soldier, E-4 or above, in addition to their primary MOS. If the unit does not have these personnel, they must send soldiers to this course.

According to Fairley, the course is also a refresher for NBC specialists before they head to the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course. “The lessons they are learning, they will be seeing again when they go to BNCOC,” she stressed.

Commenting on the importance of the skills learned at the course, Fairley cited current threats posed by our enemies in the war against terrorism in addition to modern battlefield conditions.

“Everybody wants to survive on the NBC battlefield and even if you’re not in the military you could still know what to do in the civilian world,” Fairley continued.

Fellow instructor, Staff Sgt. David Bruno, NBC NCO with 1st Military Police Company said, “We are always alert while conducting (missions). We never know. We are preparing just in case.”

He said the class was important because

"it's a basic (soldier) skill. They need to know this in order to carry on the mission."

Bruno, from New York, said NBC training is even more important in light of the events of September 11, 2001.

"I take my job even more seriously. I feel that every soldier should take NBC very (seriously)."

Pfc. John M. Gonzales, a student in the class and an infantryman, agreed this class is important to every soldier.

"Because I work in the Tactical Operations Center, it helps me get a better comprehension on overlays and how plotting is in conjunction with battalion operations," he said.

"There is a lot of detail involved in (NBC); you've really got to pay attention to detail," Gonzales stressed. "If you don't, it could cost you your life and the lives of the people around you."

"It's a lot to learn. Hopefully, I can push further and go further with this and spread the knowledge, because everybody needs to know," Gonzalez concluded.

The course included studies in multiple types of chemical agents and their effects, spread, and residual effects. It also covered nuclear threats, chemical downwind messaging, calculating danger zones in an affected area, decontaminating self and equipment.

Students who completed the NBC Defense Course received certificates of training.



Above: Instructor Staff Sgt. Michelle Fairley demonstrates the proper method of assisting a buddy in rolling his promask hood to students enrolled in the two week NBC Defense Course at Camp Monteith. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Left: A soldier with Task Force 2-2 Infantry uses the M-13 Portable Decontamination Apparatus on a fork lift as part of the NBC Defense Class held at Camp Monteith June 12. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

Stopping Traffic for Peace

By Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

Another road suspected of being used to smuggle contraband across Kosovo was made safer by the men of 2nd Platoon "Ice," Alpha Co., 2-2 Infantry Battalion, while manning a coalition vehicle control point May 23.

"Our job is primarily observation," said 1st Lt. Erinn McQuagge, 2nd Platoon leader. "We report up any strange traffic patterns and try to apprehend any suspects that are transporting weapons."

Capt. Douglas Walter, Alpha Co. commander, said smugglers have "gotten smart and started communicating. They have cars ahead of them that radio back and let them

know we have a checkpoint set up. We're going to show them that we are smarter than they are."

A joint operation between Swedish and U.S. soldiers was used to catch smugglers in the act. While soldiers of "Ice" set up an observation point along a wood line overlooking an intersection, soldiers of Alpha Co.'s 1st Platoon manned a Quick Reaction Force vehicle checkpoint.

The joint mission with the Swedish army, "allows us to work with other KFOR contingents out here to build the NATO brotherhood," explained McQuagge. "They get to see how we operate and we get to see how they operate."

Staff Sgt. James R. Helms, "Ice" platoon's fourth

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Smugglers have "gotten smart and started communicating. They have cars ahead of them that radio back and let them know we have a checkpoint set up. We're going to show them that we are smarter than they are."

Capt. Douglas Walter

Team Leader, Sgt. Christopher Shook instructs Pfc. William Belfanz on his lane of responsibility overlooking the road near an intersection. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.





“You’re here for a purpose. I like helping secure the peace for the people”

Pfc. William Balfanz

TRAFFIC

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squad leader, said the mission not only prevents smuggling, but also provides a safe and secure environment.

1st Platoon soldiers agreed with Helms on the importance of the mission.

“I like helping secure the peace for the people,” said Pfc. William Balfanz, fourth squad’s machine gunner. “We’re making sure there is no (weapons) smuggling going through here.

“You’re here for a purpose,” added Balfanz. “We haven’t seen anything yet, but we’ve got to keep watching.”

“They are outstanding infantrymen and it’s an honor to be their squad leader,” said Helms. “I have good guys around me and they know what they’re doing.”

Above: Pfc. William Balfanz (Right) maintains rear security while Team Leader Christopher Shook (Near left) provides cover for the rest of the team advancing on an abandoned house. The house was used to observe during an anti-smuggling mission May 23. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

Below: Grenadier, Pfc. Chris Holland, and rifleman, Pvt. Luis Grau, stand at a window overlooking and observing the road's traffic. Unusual traffic patterns were to be used as indicators of possible smugglers during the mission and would attract the attention of the quick reaction force waiting elsewhere. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Army Surgeons, A Cut Above

“While we show them current U.S. procedures, we seem to learn more from them. We are amazed to see what they can do with the limited resources they have.”

Capt. Michael Deboisblanc



Capt. Michael Deboisblanc is assisted in a June 18 surgery by Dr. Sejdulla S. Mahmuhi of the Gjilan hospital. The surgical assistance program is an ongoing program of Task Force Med Falcon. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

By Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

GJILAN, Kosovo – While Army doctors are not known for their humor, Gjilan residents are kept in stitches by Task Force Med Falcon surgeons like Capt. Michael Deboisblanc, chief of surgery for TFMF and Capt. William Ross, orthopedic surgeon for TFMF.

TFMF has been conducting a surgical assistance mission with the hospital in Gjilan on a weekly basis for the last two years. This ongoing mission includes both general and orthopedic surgeries.

The mission began as a way of assisting Kosovo surgeons and developing a mutual learning experience for both military and civilian surgeons.

“While we show them current U.S. procedures, we seem to learn more from them. We are amazed to see what they can do with the limited resources they have,” Deboisblanc said.

The first “amazing” thing TFMF surgeons noticed was how quickly the patients regained consciousness after surgery. In the United States, a patient commonly regains consciousness about an hour after surgery. At the Gjilan hospital, the surgery patients were somewhat conscious and speaking as they were being wheeled to the recovery room.

Another amazement was the way the operating room was set up. The operating room table, as well as the surgical instruments and anesthetic equipment, were the same as what would have been found in an American hospital approximately 30 years ago, according to Deboisblanc.

In addition to the equipment, the surgical procedures are not ones currently practiced in the United States. However, new surgical procedures are incorporated weekly in the two or three operations in which the Gjilan hospital surgeons assist the TFMF surgeons.

Dr. Sejdulla S. Mahmuhi, surgeon at the Gjilan hospital, and other doctors on his staff are “very receptive to the new techniques” the TFMF surgeons demonstrate to them, Deboisblanc said.

The surgeries are arranged the week prior to the actual operation. The TFMF doctors along with their Kosovo counterparts see several patients and decide which ones will be scheduled for surgery the next week. Most of the surgeries are performed on diseases or injuries that are well advanced over what would be seen in the United States.

The surgeons, while vitally important to the mission, are not the only members of the TFMF team. Col. Donald Cavallo, TFMF commander, holds regular meetings with the chief-of-staff of the Gjilan hospital to discuss issues and to help troubleshoot ongoing problems. Anesthesiologists, such as Surgeon Lt. Commander Mark Patten of the British Royal Naval Reserve, accompany the team serving as both a consultant and anesthesiologist. In addition, surgical scrub nurses usually accompany the team.

While the medical team is multi-faceted, so is the approach TFMF



Above: Capt. Michael Deboisblanc is assisted in a June 18 surgery by Dr. Sejdulla S. Mahmuh of the Gjilan hospital. The surgical assistance program is an ongoing program of Task Force Med Falcon. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

takes in accomplishing the overall medical mission. In addition to the surgeries, medical conferences are held with local physicians, often involving other MNB(E) units, such as the Greeks, according to Deboisblanc. KFOR also holds medical conferences for all Multi-National Brigade sectors.

Even though the gap in medical procedures is significant, Deboisblanc feels the gap can be closed. This narrowing will only be accomplished after several seemingly quite unrelated issues are resolved.

The modernization of equipment and hospitals is paramount to advancing the medical portion of the solution. New equipment has been donated to the hospital, but without the necessary changes to the building itself, the equipment cannot be used.

According to Deboisblanc, the equipment and buildings are not the only things in need of change. The toughest issue to solve in improving the health care for all the people of Kosovo may have nothing to do with medicine. The difficulties of racial and ethnic acceptance and understanding loom over the medical community of Kosovo. Apprehension often keeps Serbs and Albanians alike from seeking medical care at a hospital operated by the other ethnic group.

Much positive advancement in American medical and racial concerns has taken place over the last 30 years, bringing hope and health to many. With programs such as the surgical assistance mission and the overall MNB(E) mission, similar advancements can be made in Kosovo; hopefully soon.

Below: Capt. Michael Deboisblanc of TFMF is assisted by Gjilan hospital workers in preparation for a June 18 surgery. This is part of a two-year-old medical assistance program conducted by TFMF. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



Surgeon Lt. Commander Mark Patten, anesthesiologist with the British Royal Naval Reserve and TFMF, assists in administering anesthetic to a surgery patient at the Gjilan hospital. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

Best Friend to Man's Best Friend

By Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo - Man's best friend has his own special friend provided by the U.S. Army here in Kosovo.

The drug and bomb dogs of the 793rd Military Police Battalion on Camp Monteith have their teeth brushed, shots given and injuries treated by soldiers of the 422nd Medical Detachment (veterinarian service) from Rockville, Md.

"If the dog is down, we can't do our missions. The veterinarian technicians give us the proper medicine that we need to get them (to where) they can do their duties," said Staff Sgt. David D. Gold, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the MP detachment at Camp Monteith.

The dogs are an intricate part of the mission of maintaining a safe

and secure environment in Kosovo. Whether leading the way in cordon and searches or manning vehicle checkpoints, the role of the K-9 units here is vital.

"When we're doing searches, we go through before anyone else goes through," Gold said. "If the dogs aren't there, someone could get blown away by a bomb being set off."

Taking care of the dogs consists of more than just feeding them. The MPs must take into account factors that can affect readiness with their dogs, similar to risk assessments conducted by commanders before every mission.

In the increasing heat of the mountain summer here, the dogs are worked in the morning to prevent heat injuries to the animals.

Animal Care Specialist, Spc. Courtney C. Kreft of the 422nd Medical Detachment (veterinarian service), comforts a military working dog before an examination June 18. Though it is not official doctrine, the military police consider their dogs to be one rank above their handler. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

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VET

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The veterinarian technician is “responsible for making sure that we are doing our part to keep the dogs healthy,” said Staff Sgt. Gunnar G. Pedersen of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 98th Area Support Group, who is attached to the battalion.

Duties include keeping the kennels up to standard, storing food properly, and making sure the dogs are kept cool and hydrated.

In emergencies, the dogs are treated as well as any regular servicemember. These four-legged soldiers are medically evacuated in the same way and under similar priority standards necessary for any given human injury.

“We would have the dog medevac’d to Bondsteel just like any other soldier,” Pedersen said. “If it’s something minor, they can come to us (and fix the problem). But if it’s an emergency, we would have it medevac’d.”

Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Guenot of HHC, 26th ASG, a handler for the MP unit, says the average dog eats about 40 pounds of food per month.

“If the dog is down, we can’t do our missions. The veterinarian technicians give us the proper medicine that we need to get them (to where) they can do their duties.”

Staff Sgt. David D. Gold

The handler learns the basics of checking for ticks, giving heartworm medication, and checking for anything out of the ordinary, since they see the dogs on a daily basis.

For prevention, the vet techs conduct a monthly inspection on living conditions and a semi-annual physical examination on the animals.

Spc. Courtney C. Kreft, Animal Care Specialist with the 422nd, said her job includes making sure the dogs’ records are maintained, bite reports are handled properly, and animals that may have rabies are controlled.

It is not only the U.S. Army’s dogs these soldiers see. Kreft said the Ukrainians bring their dogs to them and on every post there is a veterinarian providing care to soldier-owned pets, almost at cost.

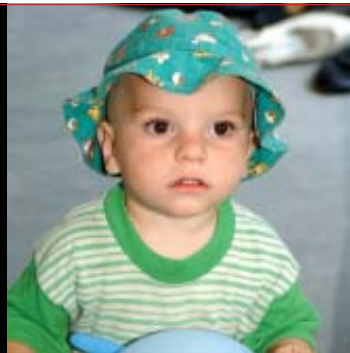
One look at these dogs helps illustrate that every job in the Army is connected, and each piece of the “Army pie” fits into a larger whole, with the end result being successful mission accomplishment.

The veterinarian technician is a key ingredient in the recipe that provides the citizens of Kosovo a safe and secure environment in which to live and thrive.

What YOU Can do to Help Earth



- After meals in officer dining facility, always place your empty waste cans in the recycling bins next to the tray table.
- Have your officer collect empty cans.
- Instruct your cleaning staff not to throw away bags of empty cans.
- Wrap up your cans in weather bins labeled “Aluminum Cans Only” located in north dining facility.



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First, Tenth, Last

By Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

DEVAJE, Kosovo — One can always rely on numbers to give an accurate account of how many people attended an event. But at a June 28 Medical and Dental Civilian Assistance Program mission nothing could subtract from the most important reason for the mission; the health and welfare of the Kosovo residents of the Multi-National Brigade (East).

This, as well as all the other MEDCAPs, does not just happen. Completing the mission is accomplished by dividing the diverse assets of MNB(E). Maj. James Hoss, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, team three officer-in-charge, goes out many weeks in advance with his team to coordinate a place and time with communities in need of medical assistance. Members of Hoss' team, such as Spc. Nathan Wolf, take great care to cover every possible area that could add to or subtract from the successfulness of the mission.

With the preparatory work finished, the day arrived for the actual MEDCAP. 1st Lt. Tyler Gence, medical platoon leader for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of 2-63 Armor Battalion, led the team to Devaje.

"According to our records, this is the first MEDCAP Devaje has had. This village is small and somewhat remote, so it hasn't received a lot of attention," said Gence.

Gence should know about MEDCAPs. He and Task Force 2-63 have conducted nine MEDCAPs since November 2002. According to Gence, this one has also been the eighth to incorporate local health care providers.

During these ten MEDCAPs, over 1,700 Albanian and



1st Lt. Tyler Gence, medical platoon leader of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Task Force 2-63 Armor Battalion, passes out calcium tablets to some of the 137 residents who were given medical, dental and optometry care by U.S. soldiers at the Medical Civilian Assistance Program mission in the village of Devaje June 28. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



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Spc. Lisa Schleig, NCOIC of the TFMF optometry clinic, determines the necessary perscription for a Devaje resident during the MEDCAP June 28. Twenty-five pairs of perscription glasses were given out during the MEDCAP. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

Serbian Kosovars have had medical screenings along with dental and optometric care. In Devaje alone, the Task Force Med Falcon team saw 137 Albanian Kosovars between the ages of one and 74.

While Gence has been to ten MEDCAPs, Capt. Joseph Rogalinski experienced his first at Devaje.

"This (MEDCAP) is a good thing. The people really appreciate it. My skills are honed by dealing with the acute care cases we see," said

Rogalinski about his experiences at the Devaje MEDCAP.

Rogalinski and Spc. Lisa Schleig, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the optometry clinic at TFMF, gave 25 pairs of prescription glasses to those in need.

While some of the MEDCAP doctors were adding to the health of the local citizens by giving out items, some doctors were adding to it by subtracting items, so to speak.

"We saw 30 patients today and extracted four teeth," said Staff Sgt. Reynaldo Tan, TFMF Dental clinic NCOIC. The extractions were done only because not doing it would have caused more acute dental problems, according to Tan.

"The MEDCAPs have been by far the most meaningful and enjoyable experience of my deployment," said Lt. Col. John L. Deffenbaugh, TFMF dental clinic officer-in charge, about this, his sixth and last MEDCAP.

As Capt. Brian Robertson, flight surgeon for Task Force Dragon, was screening over 100 patients during the five hour MEDCAP, another 2-63 medic was enjoying his day off. Spc James Dolph, medic for HHD, 2-63 currently assigned to Alpha Company 2-63, volunteered to help on the MEDCAP instead of taking the day off.

"I just love doing (MEDCAPs)," Dolph said about why he came out on

the mission.

The Army values of "Duty," "Honor" and "Selfless Service" were plainly seen during the afternoon of June 28. The 2-63 has left a lasting impression on the people they have served, one that will inspire others to work hard toward providing a safe and secure future for the people of Kosovo.



Capt. Joseph Rogalinski, TFMF optometry officer-in-charge, exams a young patient's eyes during the Devaje MEDCAP June 28. Forty people were seen for eye exams during the MEDCAP. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



R

we're here for



Protecting the Peacekeepers

“Our mission is access control and to guard the entire wire. We can relieve soldiers off of those positions and put them back where they should be.”

Dan Miller

Right: Martin Connaughton, a Force Protection specialist at Camp Bondsteel checks under a vehicle at gate three for improvised explosive devices. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.



By Sgt. Heidi Schaap

There is a battalion comprised of faithful patriots at Camp Bondsteel who guard its borders night and day, protect its fences, watch beyond its perimeter, and shield its troops. In a way, these soldiers do the most important job on the camp.

Except they are not soldiers at all. This group is made entirely of American civilians. Some call them the Tan Army. Others call them the Gingerbread Men. But there is no denying what their real job is: protecting the protectors.

“Our mission is access control and to guard the entire wire, and all the procedures involved with that. We can relieve soldiers off of those positions and put them back where they should be,” said Dan Miller, deputy project manager and operations manager for Camp Bondsteel’s Force Protection.

Before International Telephone and Telegraph, a Massachusetts-based contracted agency, took over the security of American camps in Kosovo May 1, as many as 700 servicemembers worked force protection as a sideline mission. This took them away from their regular jobs to work overtime at a job at which they had little experience.

For example, when the 82nd Engineer Battalion had to do force protection in addition to regular missions, over one-third of their force was taken away from missions 24-hours a day.

“Now I’ve got ITT guys out there that do it six or seven days a week, eight hours a shift, so they don’t hit the burn-out cycle as badly – it’s their job. They have nothing else to worry about except training and doing that specific mission,” Miller said.

ITT Force Protection specialists are not foreign to American military service. Most are former servicemembers, many are retired Non-Commissioned Officers, and still others have served in various law enforcement, corrections or corporate security roles.

In fact, this military and law enforcement experience is a job requirement for each specialist along with physical height and weight standards, psychiatric and medical evaluation, and a physical fitness test explained Miller.

Once a person meets the requirements and is hired, police trainers teach them, among other duties, hand-to-hand tactics and weapons disarmament. Then they travel to Kosovo and begin weapons training, use of force, rules of engagement, cultural diversity, and equal opportunity.

“There are 24 tasks by contract that they have to be able to perform at any given moment and test on,” Miller said.

In this, Miller continued, it’s like the military, where you have to be up to date on your Military Occupational Specialty and able to perform your mission essential tasks at any time.

The Force Protection specialists are qualified on either an M-16A2 rifle or a 9mm pistol, and are tested on judgment skills. Then they’re graded by a manager, a trainer and their peers in various role-playing situations and while conducting a few days of left-seat/right-seat training. They receive their certification and an area manager assigns them to teams at the gates or in watchtowers.

“I’ve been with these guys from the beginning, I did

See **PROTECT** on next page



Above: Earl Romeo, a Force Protection specialist at Camp Bondsteel, posted at a tower near gate three, observes his sector for suspicious activity. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.



Above: Gregory Heltman, a Force Protection specialist at Camp Bondsteel, checks the inside of a car for improvised explosive devices at gate one. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

In Memory of Daniel Luckie

A service and ramp ceremony was held June 27 on Slatina Airfield to honor the memory of Daniel Luckie, a Force Protection shift supervisor who died June 23.

Luckie, who suffered an apparent heart attack while on duty at the camp, retired from the Army as a master sergeant with over 20 years of active duty service. He was 40 years old.

“Everything he did was for his family. That’s why he was here.”

Joel Nevarez

“He was always a happy guy, and cheerful,” said Joel Nevarez, Luckie’s co-worker and roommate.

“He loved watching movies, getting coffee, and shopping for his family. Everything he did was for his family,” Nevarez added. “That’s why he was here.”

The Fayetteville, N.C., native is survived by his wife Ae Kyom and his daughter Stephanie Ann.

PROTECT

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their initial training, and these are some of the greatest people I’ve worked with, ever,” Miller exclaimed.

“They’re very highly motivated. They remember what it was like being in the military. Their hearts are into supporting the military and doing the right thing.”

David Reed, a shift supervisor at Bondsteel’s gate three and a former soldier with 23 years of active and reserve experience, said the seamless way the gates are run is a credit to the specialists’ experience.

“Everyone here has a position and a purpose, and everyone here is top-notch,” said Reed, who serves as a liaison between the Force Protection Operations Center and the “troops,” the ITT employees.

Martin Connaughton, a member of Reed’s team, agreed.

“Given the guidelines, my team does very well,” he said.

Orana “Tim” Shpejtim, an interpreter for the gate, nodded in agreement as well.

“They treat people great and they’re very friendly with them,” he said. “Not all guards would be as nice, I think.”

“They’re all professionals,” added Reed. “I’ve worked with lots of people in lots of places but...I’d work with these folks anywhere.”

“I sleep well at night knowing they’re watching our perimeter,” he concluded. “I hope the soldiers do, too.”

Science

Inside *EOD*

By Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson



Top: This kit, consisting of pulleys, hooks, eye bolts and various other tools can be used to create a system for the extraction of explosives using the pull of a rope. Before the kit, EOD technicians would visit a hardware store and piece similar kits together. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Middle: The remote control transmitter shown here can be programed to work on different frequencies. It is used by the EOD personnel in concert with remote detonators and utilizes FM frequencies to fire explosives blasting caps. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Bottom: The land mine detector shown here uses technology to locate metal components of land mines and unexploded ordnance. The drawback to its use is that some munitions are designed so that the detector can set them off. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

Land mines, firearms, rocket propelled and fragmentation grenades are a few of the dangers the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit seeks to eliminate in their effort to maintain a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

"The company mission is to be an expert when it comes to explosives and being able to inform Multi-National Brigade (East) at the brigade level as to what the hazards involved are," said Staff Sgt. Daniel James, team leader and section Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge.

Accomplishing this mission can require tools as sophisticated as a portable x-ray machine and a lap top computer. Surprisingly, the tools of the trade can also be relatively simple. The list of gear these explosives experts utilize includes articles as simple as sand paper, electrical tape and aluminum foil.

However, as with many duty positions in the Army, the most useful instrument in the EOD specialists bag is the freethinking and innovative soldier in control of the tools.

"A tool is just a tool and it's usefulness all depends on the situation you're in and what you need it for at that moment," said Sgt. Brad Grimes, a team member. "A good EOD soldier thinks on his feet. He can take a little and make a lot out of it.

"He is able to take some of the most hazardous situations you could ever face, know the dangers behind it, and yet drive on and get the mission accomplished," Grimes added.

Both of the leaders said each situation is different and it's important for their soldiers to remain flexible in accomplishing the mission.

Despite all the technology available to today's EOD technician, such as robotics, electronic mine detectors and remote detonation devices, most of the equipment the soldiers seem to prefer consist of a series of hooks, brackets, and rope.

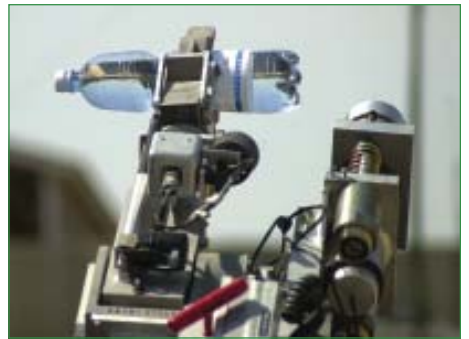
Kits developed with the lessons learned in World War I and II are still in practice with today's technologically advanced armaments.

These are the tools that help keep both KFOR personnel and the people of Kosovo safe.

and Technology



Right: Remote operators demonstrate the versatility of Andros' robotic manipulator by picking up a 1.5 liter water bottle. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



Below: Andros's size can easily be determined in this picture with a German Explosive Ordnance Disposal soldier. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



Meet Andros

By Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

Meet Andros. He's big, tough and completely fearless. He's also not human.

Used for remote reconnaissance and bomb disposal, this 600-pound robot is the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company's high-tech backup when situations are too dangerous to justify risking a soldier's life.

"It's easier to replace a robot than one of us," said Staff Sgt. Damon Clifton, an EOD team leader with the 702nd.

Even replacing the robot isn't easy, though. According to Clifton, each machine costs approximately \$180,000, making them indispensable. However, designers narrowed this cost by making the parts modular, meaning if one part of Andros is damaged it can be easily replaced. The modularity of the parts also allows a variety of tools to be mounted, ranging from a shotgun for breaching doors to a manipulator arm with 110 foot pounds of pressure.

Toughness and tools aren't the limit of Andros' abilities. Controlling the robot remotely from a distance of 300

meters, Clifton and his team can send Andros up and down stairs and across most terrain at up to 8 mph for three hours on a single battery charge. Andros' maneuverability is only limited by the viewable area of its two cameras, one on its arm and the other on a pivoting mast that can elevate to eleven feet.

The 702nd, with tools like Andros at their disposal, continues to keep Kosovo a safe and secure environment.

The Records' Keepers

By Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo — Soldiers periodically line the halls outside the office in room 104 of Stryker Hall.

The servicemembers of Task Force Falcon's 38th Personnel Service Battalion work diligently as they address the personnel issues on the minds of TFF soldiers at Camp Monteith.

According to Staff Sgt. Aaron F. Waseca of the 38th PSB, the detachment of four soldiers provides services for about 600 people. Some of the tasks they perform include checking the accuracy of promotion packets, issuing current I.D. cards, and enrollment in the Defense Enlistment Eligibility Reporting System.

The unit is currently working on getting the old green identification cards collected from soldiers at Camp Monteith and issuing the new cards.

Sgt. Henry N. Gomez, Human Resources Non-Commissioned Officer, attributes the long waits at the office to a time consuming process of computers communicating with one another.

The soldiers of the 38th PSB are an integral part of every soldier's life on Monteith.

"If we weren't here, no one would be promoted, get reassignment orders, and the staff sergeants and sergeants first class that just went to the promotion board would not get their records updated," emphasized Waseca.

"If your records aren't right, the Army doesn't know where you are. So how are they going to promote you?" Gomez asked.

"Our job is to update the records that the Department of the Army uses and keep the integrity of the information," Gomez said. He added that the duties of the PSB include more than just promotions.

"Our job is just so vast. Every type of personnel transaction or issue

Right: Human Resources NCO Sgt. Henry Gomez takes a picture using his computer station. The picture will be used to make a new identification card for a soldier in Task Force 2-2. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

"If your records aren't right, the Army doesn't know where you are. So how are they going to promote you?"

Sgt. Henry Gomez



Sgt. Henry Gomez double checks paperwork as he prepares a promotion packet to be filed away June 9. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

(goes) through us. It starts at the soldier level, then it goes to the platoon sergeant, then it goes to the Personnel Action Center, then PAC eventually brings it to us and we get it to DA (Department of the Army)."

"My job is all about helping the soldier," he continued. "It could be any type of question, a legal question or a finance question. I may not have the answers or resources to help them, but I am going to take them to somebody who does have those resources."

So what can the average soldier do to assist in this process? According to Gomez, the key is in caring about one's individual records. He recommends each soldier get an Army Knowledge Online account.

"A lot of times a soldier can just go to the AKO web site and get the answer to their question with a little research," stressed Gomez.

"We put out the web site so they could go out there and help themselves," he said.

Other web sites he suggests include www.perscom.army.mil for theatre specific issues and www.dfas.mil/mypay for pay related issues.

Soldiers Support Business, Save Environment



It's too easy! Aluminum can recycling bins are located in the dining facilities next to the tray carts. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

"We'll start small and see it grow."

Maj. Paul Silberquit

By Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Just last month, Naka Avdurrahman and his team were melting down six aluminum cans at a time to mold into decorative fence post spikes. It was a very small operation, but one they took pride in and did well.

In a matter of weeks, life has drastically changed for Naka Avdurrahman.

With the help of Kosovo Business Support, a subsidiary of U.S. Agency for International Development, Avdurrahman was able to purchase a 10-ton furnace that can melt hundreds of cans per hour into ingots, large blocks of aluminum ready for export.

The only thing the team lacked was those hundreds and thousands of cans, which is precisely where Maj. Paul Silberquit and the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion came in.

In cooperation with the Directorate of Public Works, Silberquit, economic team chief, and his team has started up an aluminum can recycling program on Camp Bondsteel.

"My vision is to start at the north (dining facility), then the south, then the (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) locations," Silberquit said. "Eventually we can move to Monteith. We'll start small and see it grow."

Soldiers should place empty cans in the tubs next to the tray cart in the DFACs, Silberquit explained. Individual offices who want to participate can take cans directly to



Wooden bins are located behind the north dining facility to hold aluminum cans for recycling. Individual offices on Camp Bondsteel are encouraged to collect and deliver their empty cans to these bins. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

those bins behind the north DFAC. Finally, Avdurrahman and his team will travel to Camp Bondsteel from their facility in Gjakova to pick up the cans.

"We will start with once a week," Avdurrahman said. "But if there's a need, we can come every day."

After his team picks up and melts the cans, the ingots will be exported to Germany for a profit.

"By assisting the company by giving them our cans, we are doing the ecologically right thing, and also providing the company an opportunity to build some revenue so they can eventually buy cans in the community," Silberquit explained.

He said it would eventually be similar to recycling programs in the United States and, at some point, cardboard and plastic might be included.

"We'll play it by ear," Silberquit concluded. "It may take a while for the troops to be re-introduced to recycling after having been away for so long. So we'll start slow and do it at a level that's manageable."

A Mother's Poem

I know I've never met you
But I am proud it's true
Because I know what you stand for
A proud soldier of the U.S. Army Corp

Remember those you love may be far away
Back in the homeland you love, our great U.S.A.
But their love and memories will be in your heart
And you can be close to them even though you are far apart

In closing I will say
You may encounter things along the way
Be safe and be strong
And come home soon where you belong.

Good Luck and Thanks for all you do
Ella, the mother of a soldier in MNB (E)

Duke Michaels in Big Duke Territory

By Sgt. Heidi Schaap

The south gym was filled with clear country tunes and bluesy southern rock refrains June 3, when the Duke Michaels Band visited Camp Bondsteel to perform for the troops.

This was the fifth time that Michaels, a former field artillery soldier, has performed at Camp Bondsteel since it opened in 1998.

“You guys are here working your butts off, so it’s the least we can do to give (the soldiers) something back.”

Duke Michaels

“I’m ex-military and I enjoyed my experience, so it’s neat to give back,” Michaels said. “Plus, you guys are here working your butts off, so it’s the least we can do to give (the soldiers) something back.”

Pvt. Jim Cronolly, a repairman in the Irish Transportation Company, said he had been looking forward to the concert for about a month.

“We heard about this country and western band coming, and were glad. We always like coming over here for the music,” Cronolly said.

“Right,” agreed his friend, Pvt. Vinnie Merrins, a repairman in the same company. “It’s therapy for us. We get to unwind.”

The band played many patriotic covers, like Elvis Presley’s “G.I. Blues” and Toby Keith’s “Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue,” but added their own



Dave Wendels, the lead guitarist for the Duke Michaels Band, plays a solo at a concert at Camp Bondsteel June 3. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

military humor and style to other country and southern rock tunes as well.

“I’m a cowboy and I like to shoot my gun – no! Weapon, weapon, that’s it,” Michaels laughingly sang in one song, and yelled a loud ‘Near-Tequila’ at the end of Tanya Tucker’s “Jose Cuervo.”

Michaels and his band also interacted well with the crowd, passing the microphone and letting them sing along with common choruses and encouraging them to dance with Nancy Nygren, the band’s only female singer.

At one point, gently poking fun at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation

stage being in a gym, Michaels jokingly asked, “Hey, could the guys up top please do their push-ups in time with the music? It’s throwin’ me off!”

Michaels said his band enjoys these concerts as much as the troops do.

“It’s fun, *and* it’s a good cause,” he said. “We (felt) that it would be a great way to bring a little of home to those so far away.”

Dave Wendels, the band’s lead guitarist, agreed.

“It’s a good thing to do,” Wendels said. “To entertain the ones who are looking out for us. We just wanted to do a bit for our country.”

Building Roads to a Better Kosovo

By Sgt. Heidi Schaap

KAMENA GLAVA, Kosovo — Kosovars from Tafali Mahala will soon have a much shorter distance to travel between their neighborhood and Route Hawk, thanks to the combined efforts of the Greek 501st Engineer Battalion and the Kosovo Protection Corps.

The villagers currently travel five kilometers around other towns and fields to get to the main highway. But the new road-building project, which began the first week in June, has cut a swath of land just one kilometer long directly from the village to the route.

Capt. George Markadonakis, an officer in charge of the 501st, said the villagers originally brought the request to the local KPC office because a shorter road would be better for those who need to find work outside of town. When the KPC brought the request to us we said, "Yes, we'll help," he explained.

Warrant Officer Mattias Padouvakis, chief engineer with the 501st, said there were three stages to the project. First, a bulldozer cleared a road. Then, a grader evenly spread gravel onto the dirt path. Finally, a roller compacted the rocks into a smooth surface.

"They bring all the materials and we bring the machines," Padouvakis said, explaining how the KPC and the Greeks worked together.

A project like this could usually be completed in as few as 10 days, Markadonakis added, but the team experienced some delays in the shipment of material and it took over three weeks to finish.

Even so, Padouvakis explained, the 501st has worked with the KPC before, both in Prizren and Babliak, and each time has been a good experience.

"It's been very good cooperation," Padouvakis said of the joint effort. "Together we do a good job."



Above: Piles of rocks wait to be grated and rolled on a road connecting Tafali Mahala to Route Hawk. The Greek 501st Engineer Battalion and the Kosovo Protection Service built the road together in a joint project. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

Left: A bulldozer from the Greek 501st Engineer Battalion clears dirt on what will be a road to Kamena Glava. The road-building is a joint project between MNB(E) and the Kosovo Protection Corps. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

News Around the Globe

Afghan Airlines Take to the Air Again

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (Army News Service, June 27, 2003) — Ariana Airlines, the national air carrier of Afghanistan, reopened its route between Kandahar Air Field and the Afghanistan capitol of Kabul June 25.

One hundred nine passengers boarded a Boeing 727 for the short flight leaving Kandahar. This is the first civilian flight to be allowed to fly to and from Kandahar Air Field since the flights taking Muslims to and from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the annual pilgrimage to the Hajj, said Lt. Col. R. Stephen Williams, the airfield commander of Kandahar.

The flight is a step toward making Kandahar International Airport, as the Afghans call it, the international hub for southern Afghanistan, Williams said.

Many different units were involved in successfully bringing the Ariana aircraft in and out of Kandahar. Civil affairs and psychological operations soldiers helped with the passengers in their waiting area and along the flight line. Military police provided security at both sites as well.

U.S. Army air traffic controllers tracked the aircraft in and out of the local air space. As a safety precaution, a Pashtun-speaking air traffic controller was also in the tower.

Once passenger flights become fairly routine, we may allow them to start moving cargo, said Williams.

Head of Saddam's Tribe Gunned Down

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) — Attackers gunned down the head of Saddam Hussein's tribe, who recently disavowed the ousted dictator, while he rode in a car in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, the regional governor said July 1.

Abdullah Mahmoud al-Khattab, who was leader of Saddam's Bani al-Nasiri tribe, was killed Sunday and his son was wounded, said the governor, Hussein al-Jubouri.

Appointed by Saddam as tribal chief, al-Khattab remained close to the dictator during his 35-year rule. But after the U.S.-led invasion, he publicly disavowed Saddam in the presence of local leaders and American troops, residents said.

Al-Khattab "had many enemies and he had confiscated a lot of properties and killed many people," the governor said.

"The person who killed him could have taken revenge," al-Jubouri added.

No arrests have been made. The assailants had been riding in a pickup truck when they shot al-Khattab and fled the scene, residents said.

People in Tikrit said some were angry at al-Khattab for his close ties to Saddam and others were upset over his decision to disavow the ex-dictator.

Army POWs Honored

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Several former Army prisoners of war, including a still-recovering Spc. Shoshana Johnson, stood at attention under a blazing sun July 2 to receive medals for their service in Iraq.

Johnson, who was shot in the ankle when the 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed March 23 near Nasiriyah, wavered slightly while balancing on a walking cast. Gen. Larry Ellis, commander of Army Forces Command, steadied her as she

received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal.

She was among 10 soldiers from the 507th, stationed at Fort Bliss, who received medals for their actions before and after the ambush. Seven were taken captive, including Pfc. Jessica Lynch, who continues her recovery in a Washington hospital.

Johnson, 30, of El Paso, greeted soldiers and friends after the ceremony, smiling and joking. She said she was only doing her job: "I'm a soldier. That's all there is to it. I'm a soldier like so many others."

Bush Explores Option to Send Troops to Liberia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reluctant to get involved in another military fight, July 2 the Bush administration debated how to respond to international pressure that it send peacekeepers to Liberia.

"It is premature to say an announcement is forthcoming in the next day or so," Secretary of State Colin Powell said after consulting with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

President Bush publicly lamented the suffering and unrest in the West African nation but stopped short of saying he would send troops.

Bush said July 2 that Powell was working with the United Nations to determine the best way to keep a cease-fire in place. He called again for Liberian President Charles Taylor to step down.

Among the open questions is how many troops West African countries would be willing to provide as peacekeepers, Powell said.

Despite U.S. reluctance, thousands of Liberians celebrated outside the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia late July 1 as rumors spread about possible U.S. intervention.

Soldier on the Street

What's Your Favorite 4th of July Activity?



James Yingling

Rank: Chief Warrant Officer
Unit: 515th Military Police Detachment
Job: Detachment Commander
Hometown: York, Pa.
Quote: "I like time with family, cook-outs, and fireworks."



Marci Pettay

Rank: Capt.
Unit: OSJ, 1st ID
Job: Operational Law Expert
Hometown: Langhorne, Pa.
Quote: "Sitting on a lounge chair, watching the fire works at Rock Harbor, (Mass.)"



Michael Hanen

Rank: Spc.
Unit: ITT Force Protection
Job: Guard
Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
Quote: "Family barbecueing at home with the kids and grandkids."



Corey Page

Rank: Spc.
Unit: HHC, 2-2 Inf.
Job: Intelligence Analyst
Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
Quote: "I like seeing the kids playing with fireworks and remembering I was the same way, relaxing and enjoying the day, drinking, barbecueing, and just being with my family."



Christopher S. Free

Rank: Spc.
Unit: HHC, 2-2 Inf.
Job: Ambulance Driver
Hometown: Clarkesville, Ga.
Quote: "I like spending time with friends and family."



Bill Tucker

Rank: Master Sgt.,
Unit: HHC, 2-63
Job: Battalion Motor Sergeant
Hometown: New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
Quote: "Barbecueing with friends and drinking beer."



Scenes of Kosovo

Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaepp

The sun peeks through all that's left of a barn
along Route 1 in the Strpce Municipality.